



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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Gregg Introduces National Cancer Act of 2003

Washington, DC — Today Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions introduced the National Cancer Act of 2003 with Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS). The National Cancer Act boosts cancer research, creates new educational programs and improves research flexibility. The bill also extends and improves existing breast cancer and cervical cancer screening programs.

“This year 1.3 million people will be diagnosed with some form of cancer and another half million will die. Nearly every American has had a loved-one battle cancer. The National Cancer Act will marshal our resources as we turn the corner on cancer. Existing efforts will be enhanced to address some of the most critical emerging issues in cancer care, including pain and symptom management, cancer survivorship and access to high-quality care, all to the effect of reducing the grip cancer has on our nation’s public health,” said Senator Gregg.

“This bill extends breast and cervical cancer screening programs which help catch cancer early, something we know can reduce mortality from cancer. The bill also formalizes the office of Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute, as we recognize that many more people are surviving cancer today,” said Gregg.

“This bill encourages the government to find innovative ways to expand access to experimental therapies for people struggling with cancer. This bill takes important steps in the fight to identify and better treat cancer,” said Senator Gregg.

National Cancer Act of 2003 Bill Summary

- Coordinates and expands the use of the existing cancer registry systems with the goal of significantly reducing the mortality rates of certain types of cancer.
- Reauthorizes and improves Center for Disease Control’s breast and cervical cancer screening programs which help to catch the cancer early and saves lives in the process.
- Creates a new grant program at the National Cancer Institute (the government’s principal agency for cancer research and training) addressing emerging issues in cancer, including pain management, survivorship and access to quality care.
- Spurs existing NCI research programs to incorporate emerging cancer issues (pain management, survivorship and access to quality care) into their programs.
- Formally authorizes existing NCI Office of Cancer Survivorship

- Provides NCI with greater flexibility in expanding private-public partnerships to allow for more innovative grant projects.
- Expands outreach and awareness efforts by NCI and FDA to increase access for patients to experimental therapies still in pipeline.

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